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Economic and Social Council

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Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Office of the President of the Economic and Social Council

Programme budget implications of draft decision E/2001/L.45

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

1. In draft decision E/2001/L.45, the Economic and Social Council would recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

> "The General Assembly, recognizing the important function entrusted to the Economic and Social Council in the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which the General Assembly called, inter alia, for the further strengthening of the Council, building on its recent achievements, to help in fulfilling the role ascribed to it in the Charter, decides that the Office of the President of the Economic and Social Council should be allocated sufficient resources from the regular budget of the United Nations to carry out these important functions."

2. Should the Economic and Social Council adopt draft decision E/2001/L.45, no direct financial implication would arise but the action could lead to subsequent requirements for expenditure as and when the General Assembly acts on the recommendation of the Council. Accordingly, potential requirements arising from such action are indicated below.

3. It is the understanding of the Secretariat, based on consultations, that arrangements for the President of the Economic and Social Council could be modelled on those accorded to the President of the General Assembly. A provision could therefore cover the cost of official travel of the President; the cost of official travel of members of the Bureau acting on behalf of the President; and the cost of official hospitality and miscellaneous expenses that may be required for the accomplishment of the President's official function. The amount involved is estimated at $125,000 annually and is presented with due regard to the characteristics of the two Charter bodies, which each have a different composition and a different pattern of meetings.

4. As requested by the Council, information is provided in the annex reflecting the provisions for the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

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Annex

A. President of the General Assembly

1. The provisions for the President of the General Assembly were made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/241 of 31 July 1997, on the strengthening of the United Nations system. In operative paragraph 1 of that resolution, the Assembly adopted the text contained in the annex to the resolution, for implementation with effect from 1 January 1998. In paragraph 44 of section XIV of the annex regarding the role of the President of the General Assembly, it is stated, inter alia, that in order to assist the President in the discharge of his responsibilities the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General, after consultation with the President, to include in the next programme budget a proposal for adequate resources to be made available to the President.

2. Accordingly, in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals, proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999" (A/52/303 and Add.1), dated 11 September 1997, an amount of $250,000 for each year of the biennium was proposed to supplement the level of support then provided to the President of the Assembly. In its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1998, the Assembly, inter alia, concurred with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and decided to approve the level of resources proposed by the Secretary-General. Since the adoption of resolution 52/220, consistent with the approved programme budget, the President of the Assembly has had full authority to use the funds appropriated by the Assembly for each biennium for the accomplishment of his official responsibilities. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 incorporates a provision of $516,400 for the President of the General Assembly.

B. President of the Security Council

3. As to the Presidents of the Security Council, no similar provisions are made in the programme budget for each biennium.